

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 560, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at the intersection of Comercio and San Justo Streets, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the 'José V. Toledo Federal Building and United States Courthouse'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GARZA-VELA UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 686) to designate a United States courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Garza-Vela United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 686

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at the corner of Seventh Street and East Jackson Street in Brownsville, Texas, shall be designated and known as the "Garza-Vela United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Garza-Vela United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 686 designates the United States Courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the Garza-Vela United States Courthouse.

Reynaldo Garza and Filemon Vela are two distinguished judges who sit on the Federal bench in Brownsville, Texas.

Judge Garza began his distinguished career in public service with the Air Force during World War II. Upon his return from the war, Judge Garza returned to private practice until 1961, when President Kennedy appointed him to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

In 1974 he became the Chief Judge for the Southern District, until he was ap-

pointed by President Carter to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In April of 1997 Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed him Chief Judge of the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals of the United States.

Judge Vela, whose career in public service is equally distinguished, served in the United States Army, was the Commissioner for the city of Brownsville, and Judge on the 107th Judicial District, Cameron-Willacy County, Texas.

Judge Vela was a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System until 1991, a member of the Judges Advisory Committee to the United States Sentencing Commission, and active in a number of local and State associations associated with civic and community activities.

This is a fitting way to honor two great judges who have dedicated their lives to serving their community and their country. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Brownsville, Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) in supporting H.R. 686, a bill to name the courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the Garza-Vela United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, this bill honors the life and works of two extraordinary Mexican-Americans. Judge Reynaldo Garza was born in Brownsville in 1915. He graduated from Brownsville Elementary School as well as Brownsville High School. After graduating from Brownsville Junior College, he attended the University of Texas, where he received a combined degree of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law.

Judge Garza served his country during World War II in the Air Force. After the war he returned to Brownsville to practice law. In 1961 President Kennedy appointed Judge Garza to the District Court for the Southern District of Texas. President Carter appointed him to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in 1979.

In addition to his judicial duties, Judge Garza has long been interested in educational issues. He served former Governors John Connally and Governor Mark White on commissions to improve the quality of education in Texas. Judge Garza recognized the importance of education in judicial proceedings and his concern for the uneducated man at the mercy of the unscrupulous people.

Judge Garza is very active in his church, and has served the Knights of Columbus in the Brownsville area for many years. Pope Pious XII twice decorated Judge Garza for his work on behalf of Catholic Charities. In 1989, Judge Garza was honored by the University of Texas with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

His record of public service includes work with the Rotary Club, the Latin American Relations Committee of Brownsville, trustees at his law school, the Advisory Council for the Boy Scouts, and he was elected as City Commissioner of the city of Brownsville.

It is fitting and proper to honor Judge Garza's outstanding, rich life, his commitment to excellence, and his numerous public contributions.

Judge Filemon Vela is also a native of Texas and a veteran of the United States Army. He attended Texas Southmost College and the University of Texas. His law degree is from St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio.

Judge Vela served as Commissioner of the city of Brownsville. He was an active member of the Judges' Advisory Committee to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Judge Vela is a former law instructor and an attorney for the Cameron County Child Welfare Department.

His civic activities include being the charter president for the Esperanza Home for Boys and cosponsor of the Spanish radio program *Enrich Your Life, Complete Your Studies*.

Judge Vela's other civic activities include membership on the Independent School District Task Force and membership in the General Assembly of the Texas Catholic Conference. He is also an active member of the Lions Club. Judge Vela was nominated by President Carter for the Federal bench, and was confirmed by the United States Senate in 1980.

Judge Vela's career is filled with successes, commitment to his family, devotion to his religion and his church, love for his work, and respect for his colleagues. It is most fitting to honor Judge Vela with this designation. I join the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) in supporting H.R. 686.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, Texas is known for many things—among them is an embarrassment of riches in the Southern Judicial District of Texas.

In South Texas, we have two judicial giants in the Rio Grande Valley for whom citizens throughout the area have asked that the new federal courthouse in Brownsville be named.

Judge Reynaldo Garza was appointed to the federal bench by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and Judge Filemon Vela was appointed to the federal bench by President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Both of these men have become legends in the South Texas area by virtue of their commitment to education and community.

Each have shown their respective dedication to the betterment of the next generation of South Texans by working actively with schools and young people.

Judge Vela has focused on the young people who have made mistakes or erred, by working with the Esperanza Home for Boys, heading activities to keep young people in school called "Enrich Your Life, Complete Your Studies," being part of the Texas Business and Education Coalition, and working with the Texas Young Lawyers Association Dropout Prevention and Literacy Committee.

Judge Garza has served on the Brownsville Independent School Board, and turned his attention to the cause of higher education by serving on the Texas Education Standards Committee, the Coordinating Board of Colleges and Universities, and the Select Committee on Higher Education.

He is revered for a story he relates about his father, while dying, who told the Judge and his siblings that while he did not leave them with wealth, he left them with the gift of education, one which no one can ever take away.

Both these legends have schools named in their honor.

When construction began on the federal courthouse, all across the Valley, people wondered whose name would grace the courthouse upon completion.

I was moved at the number of letters that came to my office relating personal stories about one or the other and advocating naming the courthouse after either Judge Vela or Judge Garza.

After reading all the heart-felt expressions on behalf of both judges, and listening to people who sought me out while I was in the District, I realized how rich we were in judicial talent and thought that the only way to satisfy the concerns of all South Texans was to name this courthouse after both judges.

This name is a reflection of the will of those people whose interests will be served in the new courthouse, and of those people for whom justice will be dispensed there.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 686.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1121, S. 453, S. 460, H.R. 118, H.R. 560, as amended, H.R. 686 and H.R. 1162, the measure just considered by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, SR., ON SECURING THE RELEASE OF U.S. SERVICEMEN FROM CAPTIVITY IN BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 156) commending the

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., on securing the release of Specialist Stephen Gonzalez of Huntsville Texas, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez of Los Angeles, California, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone of Smiths Creek, Michigan, from captivity in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 156

Whereas, on March 31, 1999, Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone were captured while patrolling the Kumanovo area;

Whereas the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., on April 29, 1999, led a delegation of religious and civic leaders from the United States in a faith-based effort to secure the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone;

Whereas against great odds and in the face of grave personal risks, the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr. and his party successfully secured the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone;

Whereas the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is recognized around the world as a humanitarian, an advocate for civil and human rights, and an ambassador of freedom; and

Whereas, as a highly respected world leader, the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. has acted many times as an international diplomat in sensitive situations and in October 1997, he was appointed by President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. for securing the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone from captivity in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and

(2) joins with the people of the United States in celebrating the return to freedom of Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution introduced by the gentlewoman from

Florida (Mrs. MEEK) which accords proper credit to the recent efforts of Reverend Jesse Jackson and his accompanying delegation of clergymen in successfully securing the release of our three POWs held in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

□ 1900

The Reverend Jackson has a distinguished record of utilizing his considerable powers of persuasion in the service of humanitarian objectives. When American citizens and others find themselves held in captivity in a hostile country as a result of circumstances beyond their control, Reverend Jackson has proven on several occasions against the odds that he can secure their release.

Our Nation should be grateful to the good Reverend for his special skills in that regard. We are also grateful that our three young service people who were unjustly held by the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have finally been returned to their families, to their friends and fellow countrymen. We salute their dedicated service to our Nation.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues in the House to support H. Res. 156 commending the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and his fellow clergymen for acquiring release of Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 156 offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK). Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 156 provides for a special commendation and tribute to Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., for his services and leadership, whereby he led a special delegation of religious leaders and even one of our fellow Members, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH) to travel to Belgrade, Yugoslavia to meet with President Slobodan Milosevic with the hope of trying to break the stalemate and crisis in Kosovo through a negotiated peace settlement or agreement, and with the hope that the three men, soldiers who had been held captive, could also be released from prison.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my commendation also to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, for his endorsement and support of this resolution; also, the ranking Democrat of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), both gentlemen, for supporting and endorsing this resolution.